From September 2021 (Volume 119)

October 2021

Worldwide, many changes, I guess, bought on by the pandemic. Changes have been made universally and slowly we are realising that things will not return to 'how they were'. My notes will, as always, be disjointed, but I write my thoughts as they occur to me.

There is a major 'Climate Change' universal meeting at Glasgow shortly but I feel that as the largest polluting countries will not be attending it makes a mockery of all the good intentions of all the attending countries. I really believe that this generation must make changes now as all the signs are there that we are facing devastation worldwide due to floods, forest fires, pollution in oceans and all the very obvious visible signs that our world is teetering on a knife edge. Too many diverse signs are there, clearly to be seen, and cannot - must not, be ignored. In our cocooned environment we are not really effected. OK, we see massive fuel price increases, utility price hikes, some shortage in supermarkets, but this is a drop in the ocean (no pun intended) to the suffering in other places worldwide. Drought, crop failures, monsoons, flooding even volcanic eruptions all hit the poorest sectors of the world-wide economy and we all see a very visible population movement from areas of poverty (and also political unrest and civil wars etc) towards the more affluent countries where, while things are on a relatively even keel, they will be absorbed. However, as things become economically more difficult , as any thinking person can see, immigration will be targeted as 'the evil' and unrest and worse will develop.

One cannot close ones eyes to the world situation and think " 'm ok, what can I do?.". The answer is individually, we can do our bit and encourage others round us to do the same. I always liken it to Lynn and I never dropping litter. The kids followed suit and their kids (our grandchildren) will never drop litter. OK, it seems a silly example but taking this as a concept this , in my opinion, is the only way forward….*by example*

We are continuing with our tree planting locally and hopefully the woods will develop into forests and we will have left a positive donation to the future. We are also getting involved in local water management schemes and the people I have met so far are very enthusiastic and dedicated and I admire the way they can see beyond the revolting concrete conduits channelling hidden local brooks behind gardens where rubbish is constantly thrown and foresee a time when they can be channelled into meanders where wild life can establish and in doing so provide a resource for young people to enjoy in a previously sterile urban environment . Some of my pictures later on in this volume show the state of how they look at the moment, and folk involved in these worthwhile ventures.

On a personal level...Lynn is still running in the park...but also pedalling on the 'newly acquired' exercise bike at the foot of the bed. Good on yer Lynn.. I still swim 3/4 times a week and gym once a week and enjoy the after effects of feeling fitter added to the great social meeting daily of like-minded people. This is also true of our walks (monthly with 'the lads' 16 of us yesterday on a 7 mile walk . Add this to walking with great friends like Cyril & Viv and often just the two of us, makes for a very full calendar, plus the added social bonus of laughing and chatting together. We are so fortunate to still be in good health at 76 and 77 respectively that we are making the most of or lives.

Tammy is so happy with her great friends and we get daily photos with giggling, happy faces of all her many friends. Likewise, Larnie enjoys life and Jake and her seem a very well balance couple and also enjoy life with Larnie working hard and focussed.

DP put on a festival at Weston Super mare and apparently it went very well but we haven't spoken to him about it yet. Peachy is hoping to get into a dance/movement school and Beau is going to Cardiff (?) to see about a uni place there. All exciting developments… Oct 2021

A lunch here in Sept '21 was enjoyed with long-term friend: Peter and Maryanne, Viv & Walter and Rennee

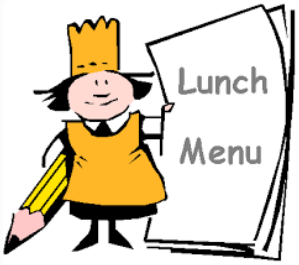


Photo History

In Sept '21 we went to Heddon's Gate via Watchet (by car) with Cyril and Viv

Watchett is a small harbour town where we often collect my stones for modelling (from the beach) and it hasn't really changed a lot in all the years we have visited. (There does, however, seem to be less stones on the beach...joke!)

This new 'end of harbour' development is a brave concept.....hope it works

Once again, we stayed at Heddon's Gate Hotel which ,considering how often we have gone there over the years, really hasn't changed much (other than only breakfast now being available)

We enjoyed taking Cyril and Viv on one of our favourite walks— along the coast path from Hunters Inn to Lyn-mouth

A very passive herd was kept in this field...and quite difficult to locate

The beautiful final stretch of the walk ...past Leys Abbey (a religious retreat) and into the Valley of The Rocks (top of the page)

One day we walked the beautiful cross country route to The Fox and Goose in Parracombe where we enjoyed a really great meal

The famous Lynton and Lynmouth funicular Cliff Railway opened in 1890 is the highest and the steepest totally water powered railway in the world!

The stunning view into the hidden valley taken from Heddon's Gate Hotel

As one gets older one reflect on life realising that at the age we are now there is a long life behind you with all those memories but obviously, a much shorter period ahead of us. This is not morbid or sad...it is a fact

So, I thought, as this is my Photo History, and often snippets appear in these volumes showing the reality through the façade we all surround ourselves with. Possibly, the thought that certain things are private or that it is 'not British' to show one's emotions that many of us die without family and friends ever knowing the true nature of the departed. In fact a friend recently was commenting on funerals he had attended and heard more about the deceased than he had ever known during their long friendship.. Don't worry, I'm not, however, about to disclose gruesome hidden facts.

I question my lifestyle now after over 50 years hard work...and catering/hospitality etc were very draining and exhausting at times. Friends often commented that I seemed to work harder and for longer hours than they did. I am not looking for sympathy. I got job satisfaction and had the work ethic instilled in me from Mum and Dad. Lynn also worked very hard, often in jobs she really disliked and was always there behind me encouraging and supporting me.

Yes, of course, as I always say, there were difficulties and couples who have been married as long as us (over 57 years) experience struggles/strains and problems. Any that do not admit to that are lying or deluding themselves.

We have achieved a happy home and have wonderful children and grandchildren and we all enjoy one another's company naturally...not as a duty as seen in some families.. I miss Mum and Dad, Lilly & Morrie and Ben and, I expect it is normal, wish I had spoken to them about my love for them. I guess this is normal, so Lynn and I tell all our family how much we love them now, rather than leaving it unsaid.

I find now, possibly with the luxury of more available time, that I plan my days and we walk regularly , go to see art exhibitions, theatre, films, eat out, plan holidays and short breaks. Swimming and the gym ensure that I keep as fit as I am able and Lynn runs daily in Groveland's Park . When the mornings are dark she uses her exercise bike supplementing that with press ups etc...so neither of us are slouches

Friends are of great importance to us

Added to our long term friends, we have surprisingly acquired a whole new raft of friends , sometimes having met them at mutual friends' homes, or through walking with the 'Gentleman's Walking Group' We have endless lunch, dinner and walks planned and the social side is such fun and everyone seems to gel.

On the last Friday of the month I walk with my walking buddies who are a very mixed crowd (all of mature years) , with over 25 on the email list but invariably not everyone can make every walk. These walks vary in location ...from town to country invariably terminating in a chosen pub for a real pub lunch. These walks are supplemented by 'splinter groups' of walkers enjoying smaller numbers and chatting while we walk.

I have made many acquaintances through swimming and again these friends are very different and we have a monthly coffee social (all men) at a café in a garden centre at Crews Hill. A swimmer left me an invitation today to a lunch with regular swimmers locally in Southgate and this is both men and women.

Lynn and I also like to put something back into the community and have found some great folk who volunteer like us in various activities. We plant trees in the Enfield Chase (there sessions completed) and three more coming up. We hope the resulting woodland will be a tribute to our forward thinking. I have walked with the Pymme's Brookers and they are an inspiration group who envisage taking the brook from its constricted course in concrete conduits back to a free-flowing meander of water. They also interviewed me for a film they are making. I have walked Turkey Brook too and other environmental actions are planned.

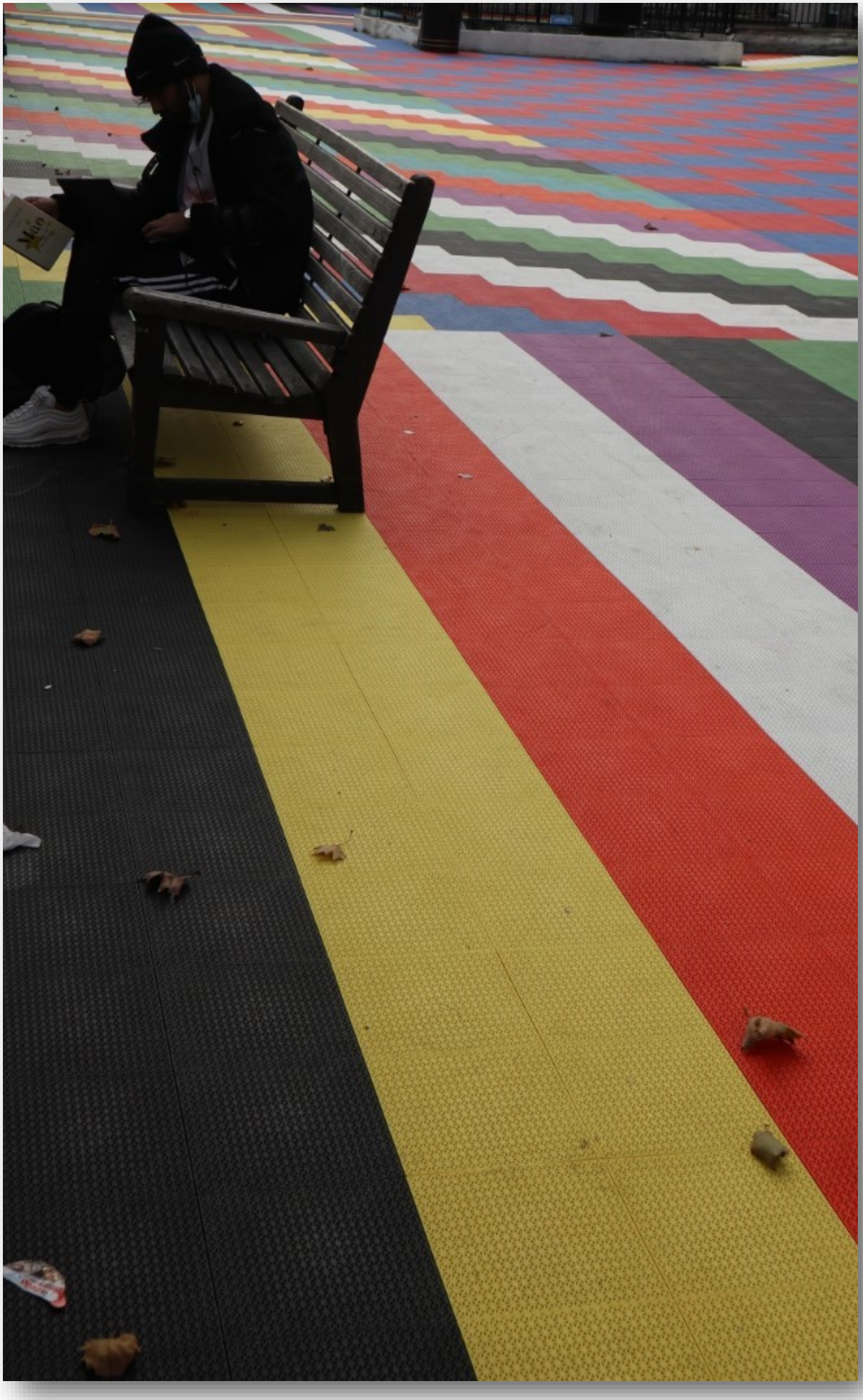
I, as is obvious here, continue with my Photo History volumes and really hope that future generations will look through them to see what life was like with such major changes (not all for the better) I realise that one should look at changes with the question in ones mind" is this good for me; is this good for society, or is this just change for change's sake?" Sometimes the old adage " if it aint broke, don't fix it , rings true.

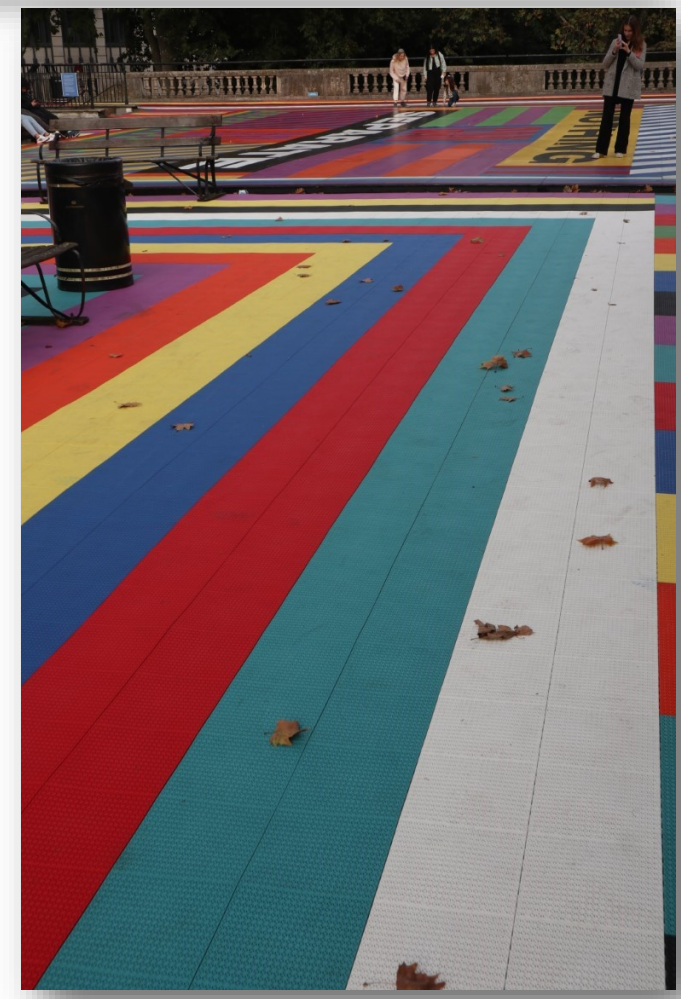
Anyway, to sum up. Life has had a purpose for Lynn and myself—our family will hopefully continue our attitudes and examples and be happy They should also continue to enjoy life and friends and from what we see that is already happening.

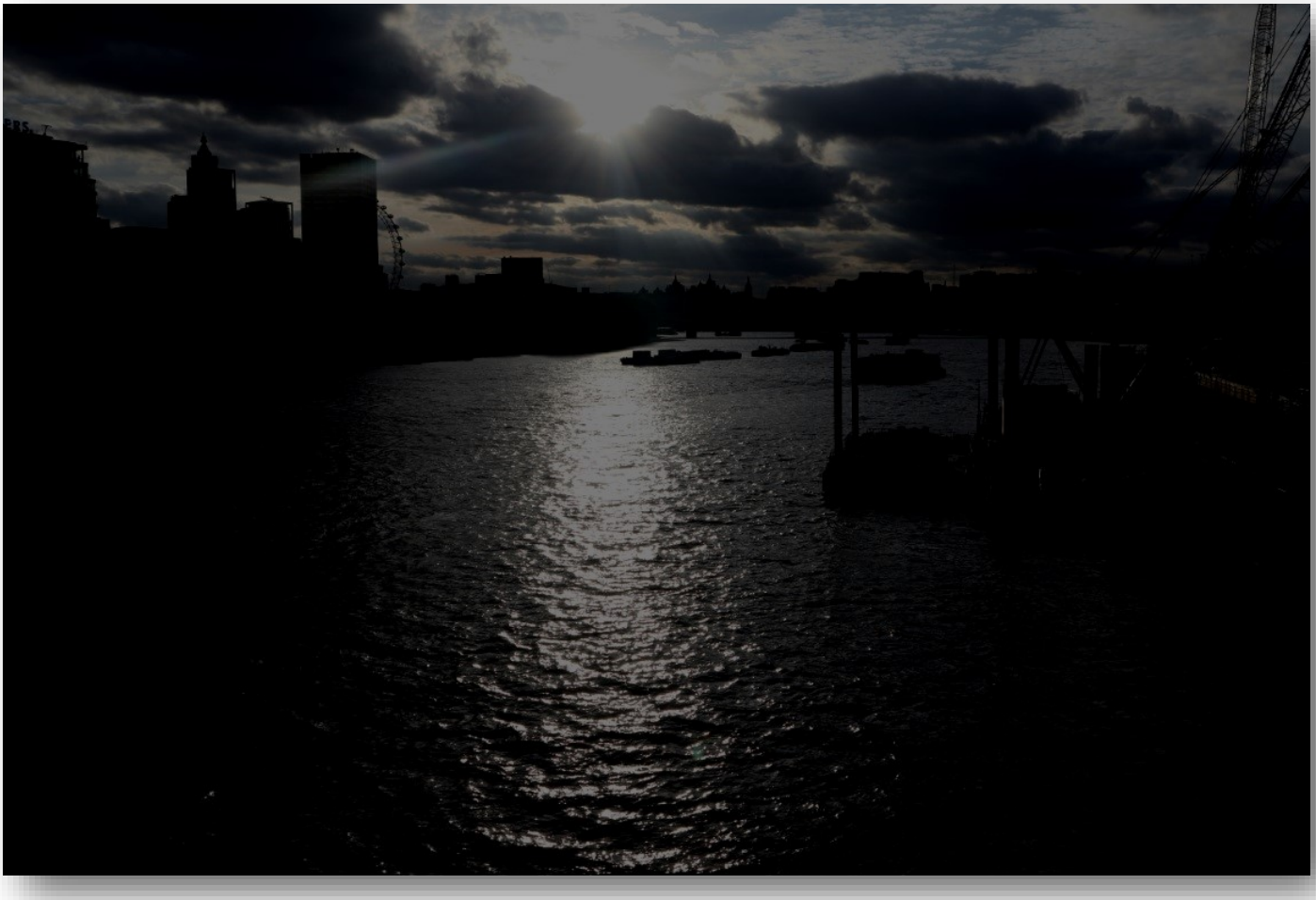
Nov21 2021

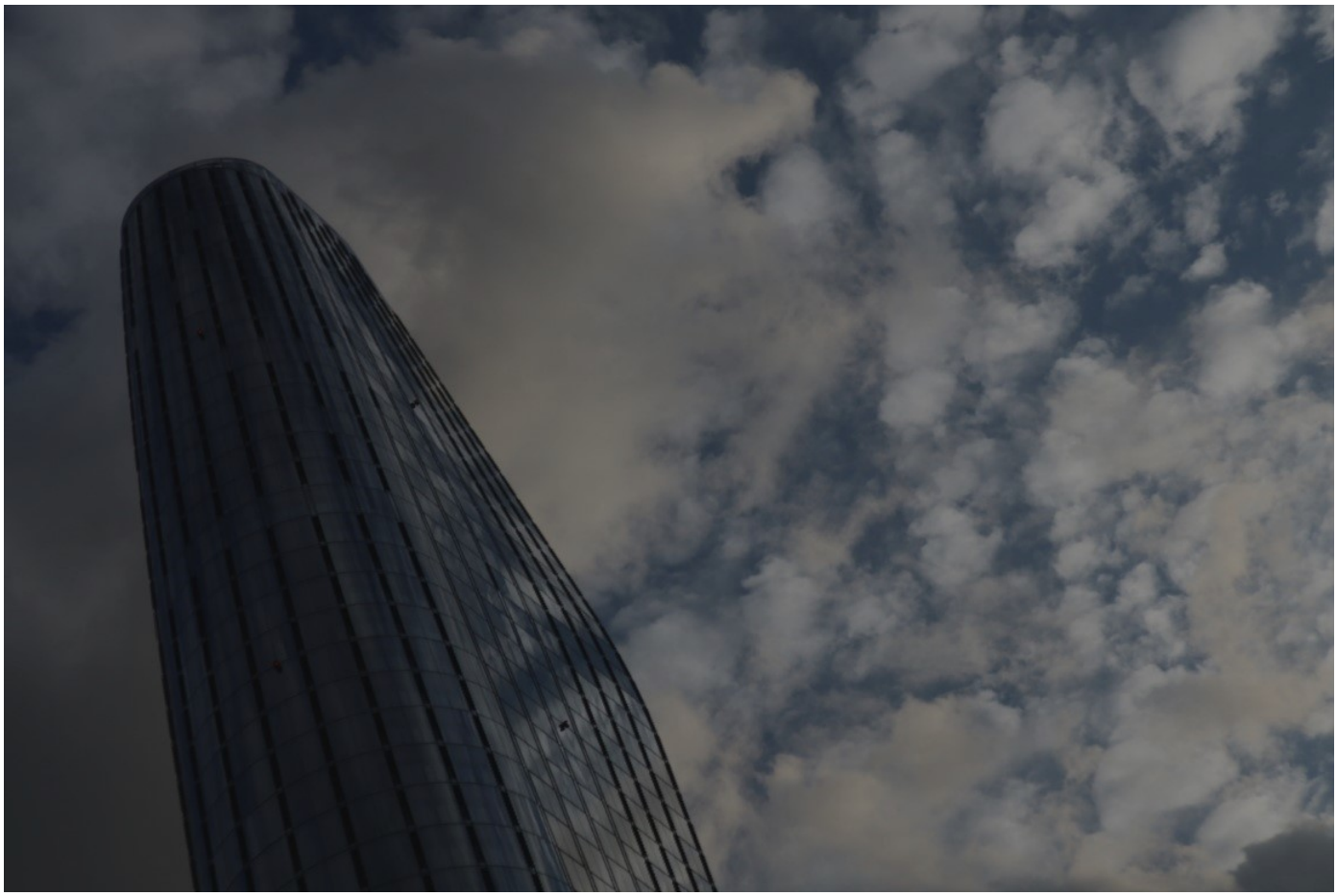
Photo History

Sometimes we find fascinating little quirky things happening in London



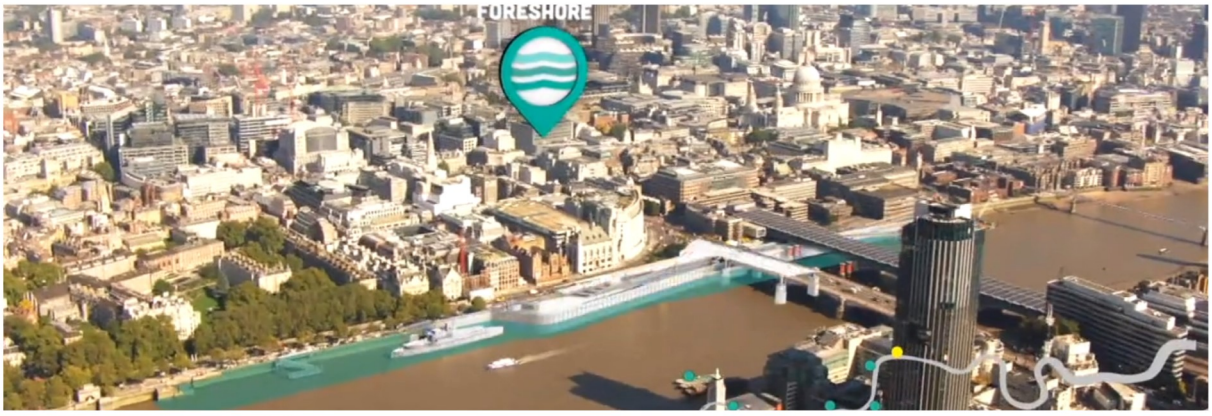


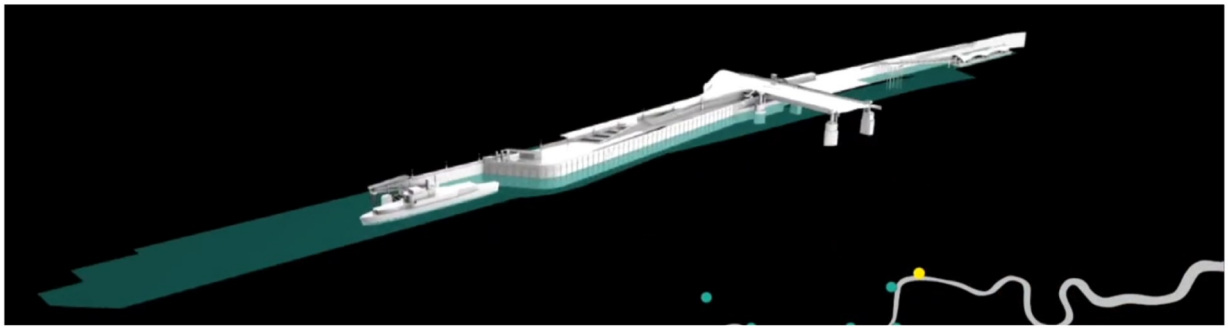




TELEPHONE
23

We were walking on the South Bank and saw this major Tideway work close to Blackfriars Bridge on the north bank. The shots below show the area under construction for this new massive sewer and the foreshore concept once it's completed (taken from their current website)





I thought this was ironic. The shop sign proudly announcing 10 years in London and now up for sale (probably another victim of the pandemic effect on retail trade)

Invicta Plaza is definitely not a thoroughfare now

I always think that shots like this show how London has developed. The busy Borough Market under the train line with the Shard towering in the background

AN EXCITING ADDITION TO THE MIX
COMING SOON

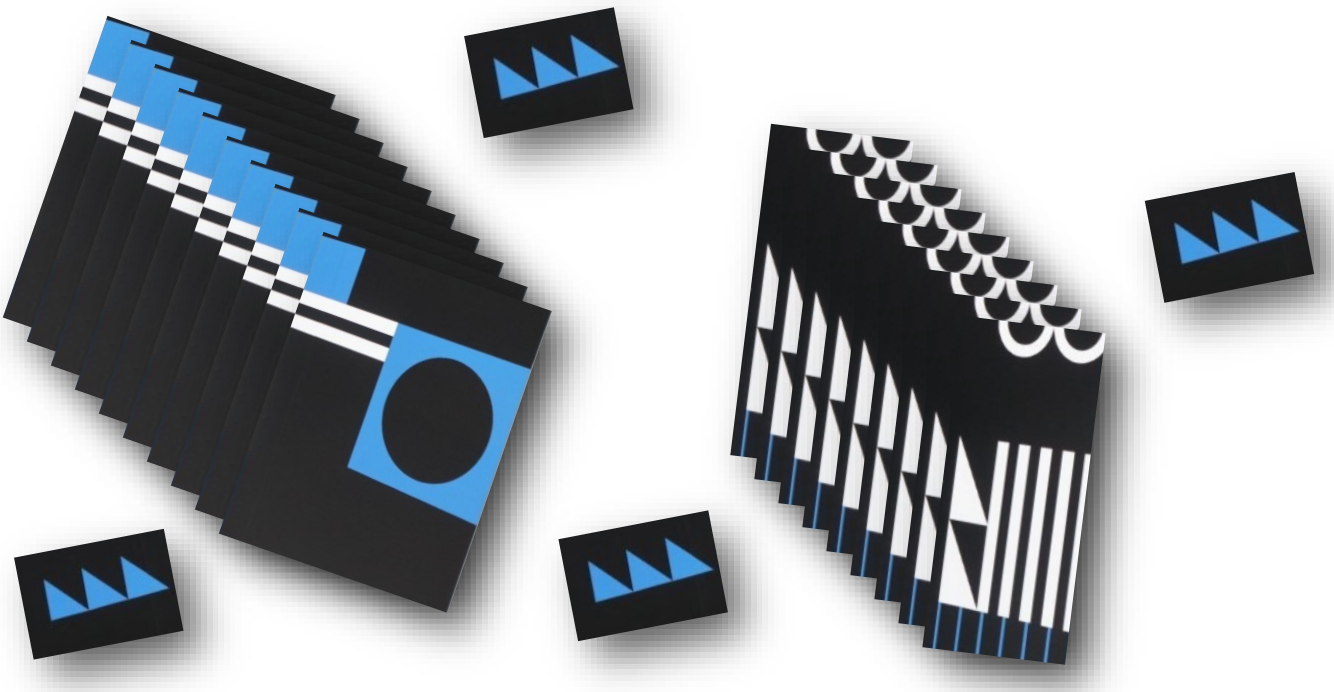


Photo History

Another great walk with Evie and Jim. This time mooching around Brick Lane. In a park enjoying the hot salt beef sandwiches

Colour transforms what would be a depressing area

Lynn climbed up the scaffolding to see if the artist had signed his great work

POKIT
EST.
1988
30 YEARS

WILKES STREET E1

WHISTLES

Poli & Jo

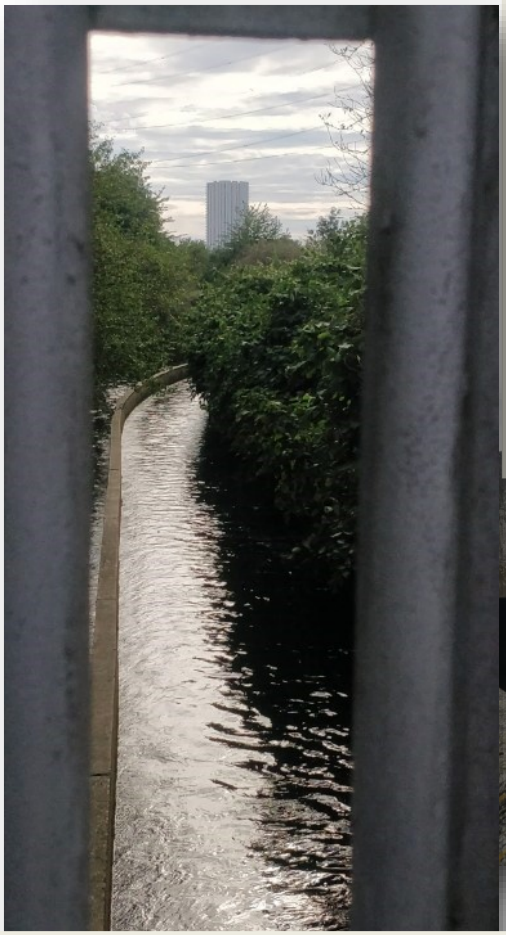
GOOSE ISLAND

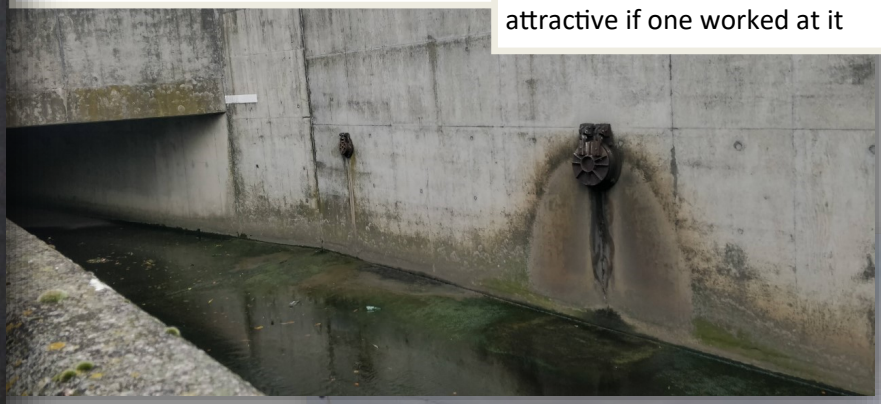
...end of the line...

Spitalfields market required attire

"Time you sorted yourself out"

I joined in a walk with The Pymme's Brookers. They are a totally enthusiastic inspired group who have the vision to see beyond this revolting current face of Pymmes Brook, encased in concrete conduits and full of debris, hidden behind gardens and under roads. They are working hard to restore it to natural meanders through parks etc where it will quickly revert to supporting wildlife again. In doing this it has many advantages, like enjoyment by all local people, flood prevention further downstream and changing the outlook of hiding away some potentially beautiful assets.





This could not be more unattractive if one worked at it

This is the site of Meridian Water which is a major £6bn, 25-year London regeneration programme led by Enfield Council, bringing 10,000 homes and 6,000 jobs to Enfield, north London, next door to the beautiful Lee Valley Regional Park.. The brook enters the site and will be allowed to meander and will be landscaped to provide a great environment

This flood prevention concept actually was instrumental in channelling water even faster in heavy rain periods totally missing the point

This is where the brook disappears under the busy Fore Street junction

1 A short break en route

2 Start of the walk

3 Abe and myself

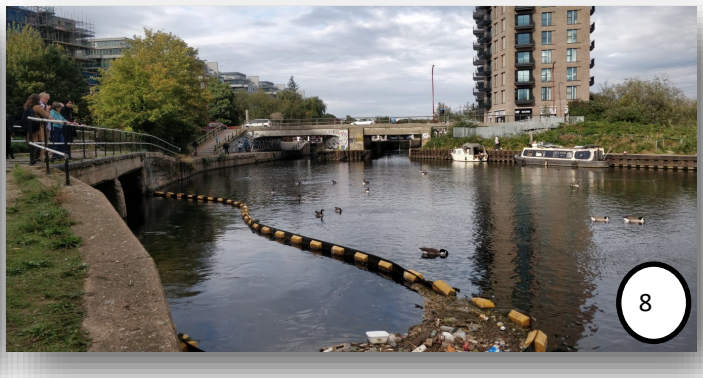
4 At the end of the walk (Tottenham Hale)

5 The riverside café (River Lee)

6 The lock on the Lee

7 The confluence of Pymmes Brook and the Lee

8 The barriers withholding some of the rubbish from The Pymmes Brook at its entry into The Lee



I've cleared out all my old used cooking oil...it's someone elses problem now

Joe, Gerald, Stephen and myself did a recce. For the forthcoming lad's walk in Cassiobury Park

A hefty struggle to get our redundant black chair into Tammy's loft room

The dynamic duo , Bab's and Tammy

Tammy with Dan

The delightful view from Tammy's loft room

ON THE ALLOTMENT..NOV '21

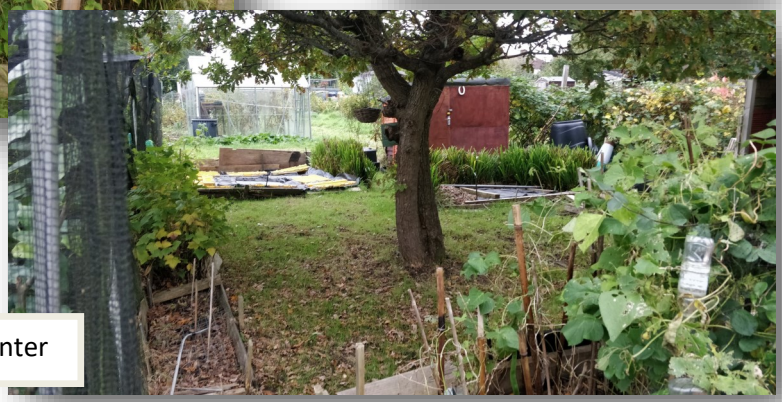
Bags (30 in all) of compost from home to cover the freshly dug beds

Ready to be spread out

Covered for over-wintering

The rogue pear tree (dug out after this shot)

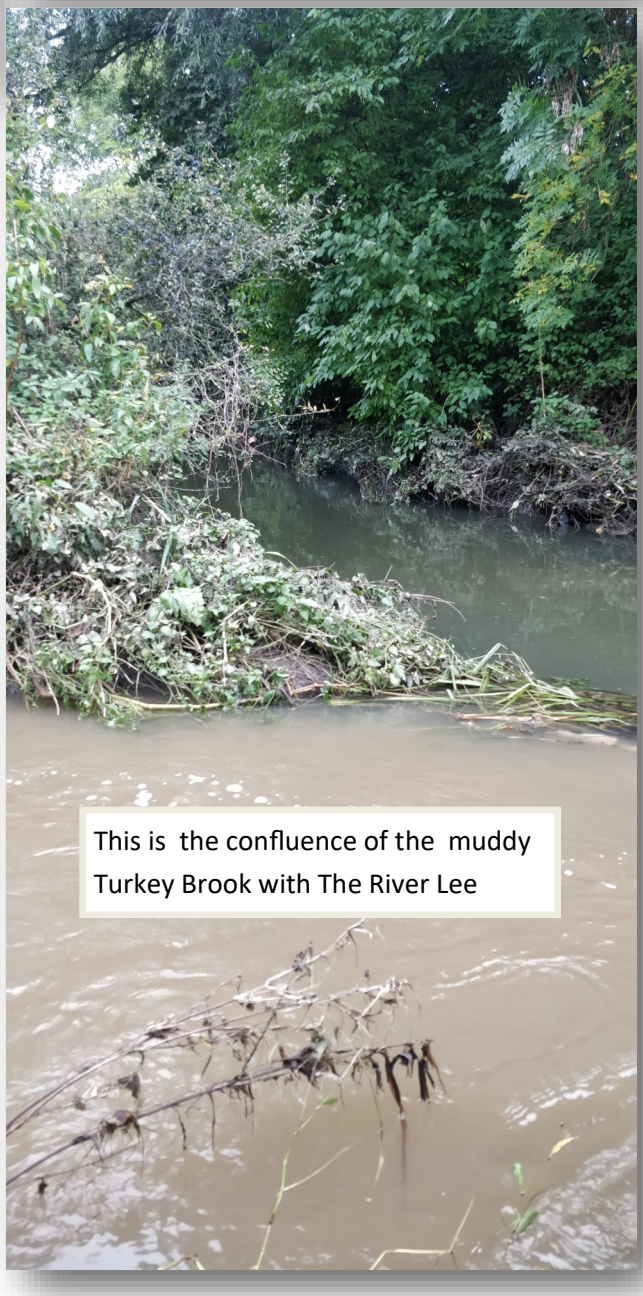
The main soft fruit bushes before pruning



Almost all ready for the winter

Photo History

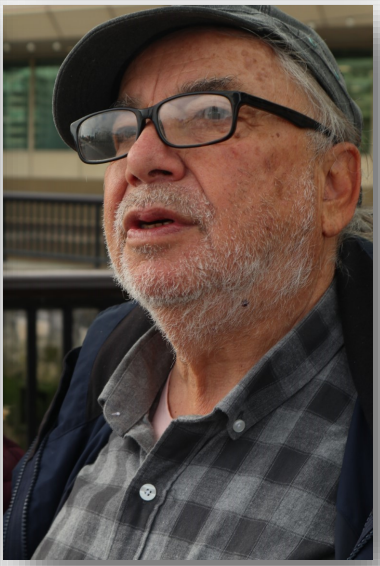
A fascinating walk (in waders) along Turkey Brook



This is the confluence of the muddy Turkey Brook with The River Lee

Possibly not the first place I personally would think of as the 'Place To Party")

Cyril and Viv joined us for a revisit to Battersea Power Station to see how the massive development had progressed. This time we took the Uber Clipper from Embankment



Chelsea Waterfront development

Battersea Power Station Development

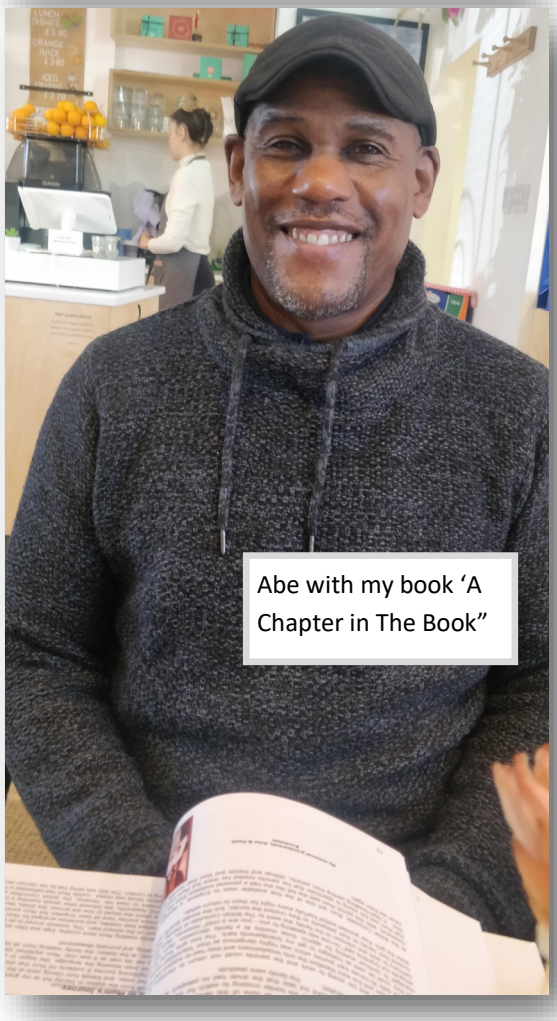
Battersea, fist stage almost completed

London views from The Uber Clipper

Nov 5th 2021

Following on from my walk along the Salmon's Brook with Stewart, I met Wendy and Abe there who were a fascinating couple. They are producing a second short film (they did one on Broadwater Estate) and Abe is a poet and Wendy does the filming and recording. They are an inspirational couple and we met locally for a coffee and short interview with the object of creating this second film about water (inspired d by The Salmons Brook walk)

The three of us just prior to our chat



Abe with my book 'A Chapter in The Book"

As I get older, I find meeting new people with such different back-grounds enriches my life experience and opens up so many fascinating avenues and this is an excellent example of this

..after our meeting, cousin Stuart met them to continue with his story

October 2021 . The belated graduation ceremony took place at The Barbican and we had the great pleasure of seeing Larnie honoured with her degree.

Tammy took us out for a fabulous afternoon tea at Fortnum & Mason where Jake also joined us.. ...a great day out

Photo History

Our annual visit to The RA Summer Exhibition was , as always, controversial. I liked some and Lynn liked some and we both agreed that there was (as always) a load of rubbish there. However lots we liked , probably won't be liked by many other folk...

Sir Anthony Caro RA (1924–2013)
Cascade Series: Mouchoir
1990

Anthony Caro's *Mouchoir* cascades over the edge of its supporting table and twists down to the gallery floor. The rusted and waxed steel has a fabric-like feel which may explain Caro's chosen title, since 'mouchoir' means handkerchief in French.

Rusted and waxed steel
Diploma Work presented by the artist in 2005
05/1782

Bill Woodrow RA (1948–)
Fingerswarm
2000

Bill Woodrow has balanced a swarm of golden bees on three fingers. He once attended a weekend beekeeping course where the instructor dropped a swarm of bees onto Woodrow's bare arm. The sculptor later thought about the experience: 'from hand came fingers and three fingers sticking out like legs supporting the swarm was an image that excited me'.

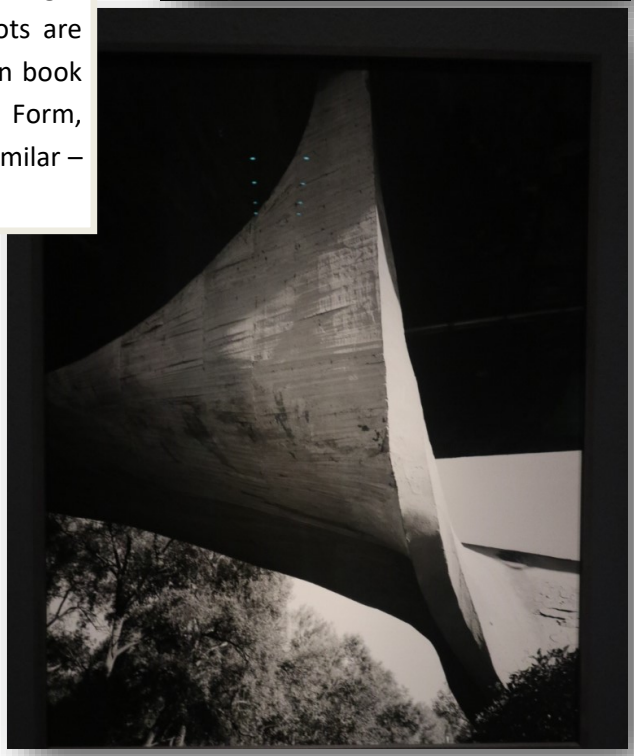
Woodrow placed one of the three fingers in a pot of wax. This reflects the two-way relationship between humans and bees: we support them while also taking from them.

Bronze, gold leaf, wax
Diploma Work presented by the artist in 2008
08/2850

This shot, looking vertically down the glass-clad lift shaft, seemed artistic in itself

One of the exhibitions at The RA was called 'light Lines' and a few shots are on this page. My own book that I called 'Shape, Form, Poetry' shots many similar – style images.

This shot was actually the door to the exhibition



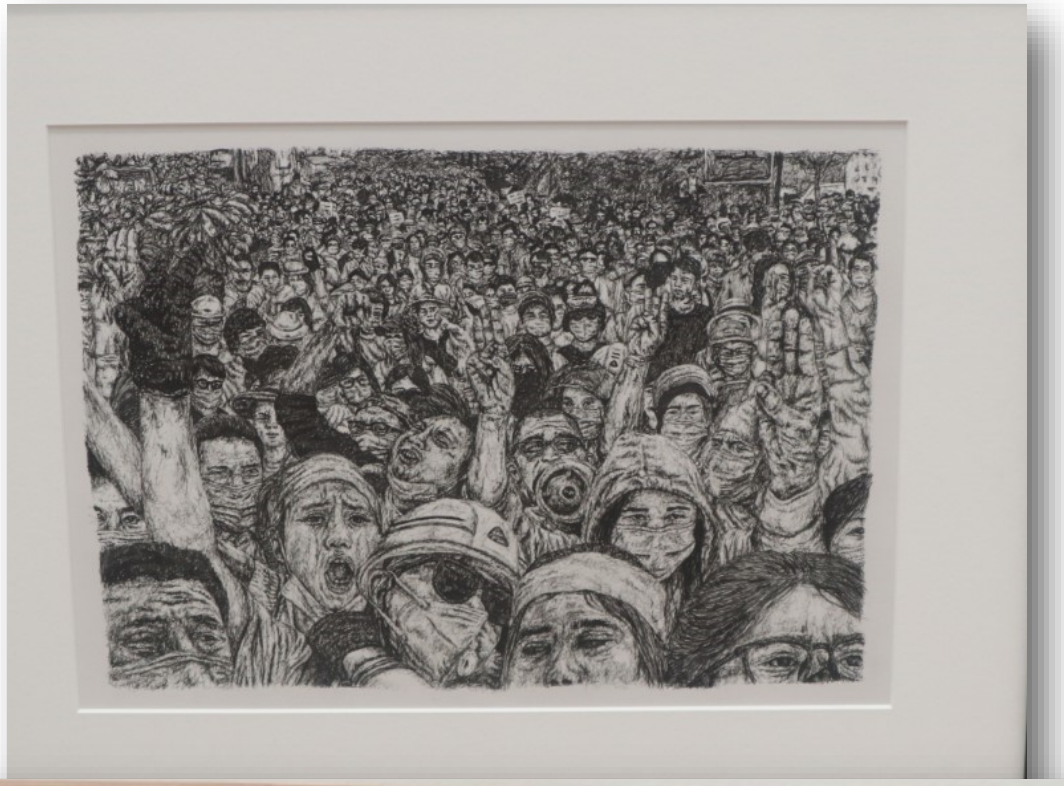
Late Constable

The Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Galleries

...yes, I agree, the frames are superb, but personally I think they detract from the art itself. So I have taken the liberty of cropping them out. Well, it's my book!

The originals are so detailed and so beautiful that these small selected shots can not do justice to them. They really need to be much larger and each one on a page by itself

The RA Summer Exhibition , as always, provokes extreme reaction. I feel that there is always so much original work there that I come out having thoroughly enjoyed it



A fascinating, clever study...

more will follow in the next book